

ITALIAN COURT RULES ON IRANIAN OIL

A Venice court ruled on 11 March that SUPOR, the Italian Company which carried 5,000 tons of oil from Iran on the Miriella, had purchased the oil legally. The court ordered that the oil be released to SUPOR.

An AIOC spokesman said that the company was immediately appealing the decision to a higher court in Rome.

The Venice decision will encourage SUPOR to try to load more Iranian oil. The Miriella transited the Suez on 28 February, presumably returning to Abadan.

Although SUPOR's apparent success will not in itself materially aid the Iranian economy, the court decision may encourage other potential purchasers who have been deterred by fear of British legal action.